

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3-6 and added new claim 7. Accordingly, claims 1-7 are submitted for reconsideration.

In the Office Action, claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended to place them in conformance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2. Support for "operation hierarchy of an operation screen" can be found, for example, in Figs. 7-14, and the corresponding description. Applicants therefore request that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by applicant's admitted prior art. Claim 1, as amended, recites that an image processing system comprises, *inter alia*, an image reading device having an operation screen, for reading images based on an operation hierarchy of the operation screen, and a file server for recording the images from the image reading device on a directory hierarchy, wherein contents of the operation hierarchy of the operation screen of the image reading device correspond to contents of the directory hierarchy for recording the images of the file server such that changing points of the operation hierarchy correspond to changing points of the directory hierarchy.

In contrast to claim 1, there is nothing in the admitted prior art that discloses or suggests that contents of an operation hierarchy of an operation screen of an image reading device correspond to contents of a directory hierarchy for recording the images of a file server. In fact, there is no disclosure or suggestion in the admitted prior art of an operation hierarchy for an operation screen or a directory hierarchy as recited in claim 1, much less disclosing or suggesting that the contents of these hierarchies correspond to each other, and changing points of the operation hierarchy correspond to changing points of the directory hierarchy. With the recited structure, an image may be treated having operation contents common to the image reading device and the client terminals. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the admitted prior art. Claims 2-3 and 6 are also patentably distinguishable from the admitted prior art by virtue of their dependence from claim 1, as well as their additional recitations.

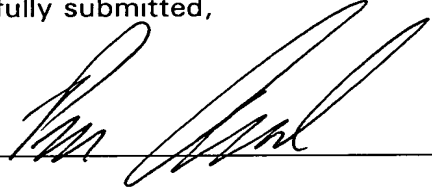
Lastly, claims 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Bladow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,040). Even assuming, *arguendo*, that Bladow et al. is combinable with the admitted prior art, Bladow et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of the admitted prior art as outlined above. Like the admitted prior art, Bladow et al. fails to disclose or suggest that contents of an operation hierarchy of an operation screen of an image reading device correspond to contents of a directory hierarchy for recording the images of a file server. Accordingly, claims 4-5 are patentably distinguishable from the combination of the admitted prior art and Bladow et al. by virtue of their dependence from claim 1, as well as their additional recitations.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.

MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

In the Title:

**IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEM PERMITTING COMMON OPERATION CONTENTS
BETWEEN AN IMAGE READING DEVICE AND CLIENT TERMINALS**

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) An image processing system comprising:

an image reading device having an operation screen, for reading [an] [image]
images based on an operation hierarchy of the operation screen;

a file server for recording the [image] images from said image reading device on
a directory hierarchy; and

a plurality of client terminals connected to said file server via a communication
line, for accessing the images recorded on the directory hierarchy of the file server, and
for commonly using said image reading device;

wherein contents of the operation hierarchy of [an] the operation screen of said
image reading device [is set to have a correspondence relation with respect]
correspond to contents of the directory hierarchy for recording the [image] images of
said file server [and] such that changing points of [the respective hierarchies reflect on
the opposite hierarchies] the operation hierarchy correspond to changing points of the
directory hierarchy.

3. (Amended) [An image processing system comprising:

an image reading device for reading an image;

a file server for recording the image from the image reading device; and

a plurality of client terminals connected to the file server via a communication
line, for commonly using the image reading device;

wherein the operating hierarchy of an operation screen of said image reading device is set to have a correspondence relation with respect to the directory hierarchy for recording the image of said file server, changing points of the respective hierarchies reflect on the opposite hierarchies, an access limit of each user is previously allotted to the operation screen of a preset operation hierarchy of said image reading device or a button displayed on the operation screen and the access limit is commonly allotted to the directory hierarchy of the file server for recording the image which corresponds to the preset operation hierarchy of said image reading device.]

An image processing system according to claim 1, wherein when the image reading device changes the contents of the operation hierarchy of the operation screen, the contents of the directory hierarchy of the file server are changed in accordance with the changed contents of the operation hierarchy, and when the client terminals change the contents of the directory hierarchy of the file server, the contents of the operation hierarchy of the operation screen of the image reading device are changed in accordance with the changed contents of the directory hierarchy.

4. (Amended) The image processing system according to claim [3] 1, wherein [the access limit is made according to whether authorization is made or not by a log-in process using a user name and password] when an access limit of a user is assigned to either the operation screen of a preset operation hierarchy of the image reading device or a button displayed on the operation screen, the access limit is also assigned to the directory hierarchy of the file server for recording the image which corresponds to the preset operation hierarchy of the image reading device.

5. (Amended) [An image processing system comprising;

an image reading device for reading an image;

a file server for recording the image from the image reading device; and

a plurality of client terminals connected to the file server via a communication line, for commonly using the image reading device;

wherein the operation hierarchy of an operation screen of said image reading device is set to have a correspondence relation with respect to the directory hierarchy for recording the image of said file server, changing points of the respective hierarchies reflect on the opposite hierarchies, a password number is set on the operation screen of the preset operation hierarchy of said image reading device or a button displayed on the operation screen and a secret directory having a name based on the password number is automatically formed on the directory hierarchy of said file server corresponding to the preset operation hierarchy of said image reading device]

An image processing system according to claim 4, wherein the access limit is made according to whether authorization is given based on a log-in process using a user name and password.

6. (Amended) [An image processing system comprising:

an image reading device for reading an image;

a file server for recording the image from said image reading device; and

a plurality of client terminals connected to said file server via a communication line, for commonly using said image reading device;

wherein said image reading device includes reading means for reading an image, and a control panel for displaying a screen on which a button for instructing the reading operation effected by said reading means is displayed and setting the reading operation, said file server includes recording means for recording an image read by the reading means of said image reading device in a directory of the hierarchical structure, and the hierarchical structure of the screen displayed on the control panel of said image reading device and the hierarchical structure of the directory of said recording means of said file server are commonly allotted]

An image processing system according to claim 1, wherein when a password number is set on either the operation screen of a preset operation hierarchy of the image reading device or a button displayed on the operation screen, a secret directory having a name based on the password number is automatically formed in the directory hierarchy of the file server corresponding to the preset operation hierarchy of the image reading device.